



Volume 21  
Issue 3 *September*

Article 26

September 1994

## *Human Development Report 1993. United Nations Development Program.*

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### Recommended Citation

(1994) "*Human Development Report 1993. United Nations Development Program.*," *The Journal of Sociology & Social Welfare*: Vol. 21 : Iss. 3 , Article 26.

Available at: <https://scholarworks.wmich.edu/jssw/vol21/iss3/26>

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Clyde W. Barrow. *Critical Theories of the State: Marxist, Neo-Marxist, Post-Marxist*. Madison, WI: University of Wisconsin Press. \$38.00 hardcover, \$15.95 papercover.

Academic inquiry into the role of government in society is hardly a new topic. Indeed, political theory from the time of the Greeks has dealt either directly or indirectly with the state as a phenomenon worthy of study. However, there has been a significant resurgence of interest in critical theories of the state in recent times. Derived primarily but not exclusively from Marxism, these theories examine the nature of the modern state and investigate its functions in society by considering how the state serves the interests of those in positions of power and influence.

Marx and Engel's own writings on the subject provide a starting point but it is surprising how their seminal ideas have been challenged, reformulated and transcended by critical theorists over the years. This book offers fascinating insights into what has conventionally been a perplexing field of inquiry marred by jargon and obscurantism. Barrow's well-written, scholarly and interesting account is essential reading for any social scientists wanting to know about the modern state and its role in society today.

United Nations Development Program. *Human Development Report 1993*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1993. \$29.95 hardcover, \$17.95 papercover.

This is the third of an annual series of reports on global social development. Published by Oxford University Press for the United Nations Development Program, this report follows the precedent of previous reports by focusing on a particular theme. In this report, the theme is the role of people's participation in development.

There is, of course, a huge literature on this subject but given the dominance of economists in the authorship of the report, much of this literature is ignored. In addition, the authors focus particularly on the economic aspects of popular participation, interpreting participation as a mechanism for integrating the population into the free market system. The report's naive

faith in what is described as 'people friendly markets' appears to be oblivious of the fact that governments rather than ordinary people have the power to mediate markets and to mitigate their exploitative tendencies. The idea that 'people power' will somehow create viable non-exploitative market systems, and engender prosperity for all is surprisingly ignorant not only of the literature but of decades of development experience in the Third World.

Despite this criticism, the 1993 *Human Development Report* will be an indispensable resource to social scientists concerned with development questions. Its statistical appendices and county case studies are invaluable and indicative of its breadth and comprehensiveness.

Peter Taylor-Gooby and Robyn Lawson (Eds.). *Markets and Managers: New Issues in the Delivery of Welfare*. Buckingham, England: Open University Press, 1993. \$27.50 papercover. (Distributed in the United States by Taylor and Francis, 1900 Frost Road, Bristol, PA 19007)

The British welfare state has long been admired by students of social policy for its highly integrated structure, comprehensiveness and centralized managerialism. Indeed, the fact that Britain is often regarded as a prototypical welfare state is attributable not to historical inventiveness but to its universalism and inclusive organizational structure. Now, fifty years after Beveridge formulated a blueprint for the British welfare state, its character is being rapidly altered. Under Mrs. Thatcher and her descendants, the once integrated British welfare state is being trimmed, decentralized, fragmented, privatized and diluted.

This book will make depressing reading for those who have admired the British system and its organizational universalism. Nevertheless, it is essential reading for those who wish to know how the British welfare state is evolving. While American readers will recognize many of the features of the new managerialism, few will welcome it. By bringing together this series of highly informative chapters on the current trend away from statism in Britain, the editors of this book have made a major contribution to the study of comparative social policy.